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State Department review completed

21 February 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Resume of OCB Luncheon Meeting, 20 February 1957

PRESENT: Mr. Cutler, Mr. Herter, Mr. Dulles, Mr. Robertson,  
Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Washburn, Mr. Staats

1. OCB Executive Order

Mr. Cutler reported that the Executive Order is now before Justice Department for its final concurrence and that he expects Presidential approval and signature within a few days.

2. News Story on US Deployment of Nuclear Weapons to Foreign Areas

Mr. Robertson stated that this story was a "leak" originating in Europe, and that its release had not been cleared with Defense Department. He then outlined in general terms the Department of Defense's policy on the deployment of nuclear weapons abroad and explained how it had been staffed and approved by the President.

3. Proposed Release on Army "Atomic Support Commands"

Mr. Robertson presented a proposed release which he said Defense favored but on which they wished OCB guidance. Mr. Dulles objected to two sentences in the proposed release which are underlined in the attached copy. It was finally decided to delete all but the first two paragraphs and the first sentence of the third paragraph from the proposed Defense release. The new Defense plans for reduction in strength from 19 to 17 Army divisions, this saving in strength to be applied to two atomic support commands, was also explained to Mr. Robertson.

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4. Pakistan P. L. 480 Program

Mr. Herter asked that consideration of this paper be delayed until he could resolve differences of opinion within the Department of State.

5. Reminder to DCI

  
ALLEN W. DULLES  
Director

Attachment: As stated above

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The Army will soon organize two types of Atomic Support Commands armed with HONEST JOHN rockets and CORPORAL guided missiles, the Department of the Army announced today.

Scheduled for activation for troop testing purposes on March 1, 1957 are an Air-Transportable Atomic Support Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and a Medium Atomic Support Command at Fort Hood, Texas. An additional four Atomic Support Commands will be organized before June 30, 1958.

The Army will develop these commands primarily to furnish atomic firepower necessary to reinforce our ground forces or those of our allies. They are also adaptable for use within the U. S. Army as a part of the Strategic Reserve Forces.

The Air-Transportable ASC will be organized around an HONEST JOHN battalion of four launchers and will include intelligence, infantry, communications, engineer, and service elements. In addition, a target acquisition section will be included designed to locate and analyze suitable atomic targets.

The Medium Support Command will be built around one CORPORAL battalion and a maximum of four HONEST JOHN battalions -- the number dependent upon the area of employment and mission of the command. The Medium Support Command will contain the same type but somewhat larger combat and service support elements as the Air-Transportable Command. To provide an organic target acquisition ability, a Sky Cavalry (SKYCAV) battalion will be added which will be equipped to perform air and ground reconnaissance through the combined use of troops, aircraft, ground vehicles, photographic equipment, air and ground radars, television, radiological detection devices and intrusion.

END

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